

Letter from Mabel Hubbard Bell to Eliza Symonds Bell, August 12, 1885, with transcript

Letter from Mrs. Alexander Graham Bell to Mrs. Alexander Melville Bell. (envelope postmarked) (Cambridge, Aug. 12, 1885) My dear Mrs. Bell:

I telegraphed you yesterday bidding you welcome home and I write now to say how glad I am that you are safe on this side the ocean again and as Alec says — “As well as can be”. I wish I could have been at the wharf with Alec awaiting you, but it seemed better not to do so at this time. I am so glad that you had the opportunity of visiting Europe and seeing your old friends once more and am only sorry that you had to come home in such very warm weather. I am impatient to hear further of all your travels and wonder what your present plans are. As for ours, Alec will tell you we have not very definite ones. He hopes to get to Newfoundland this summer, but I don't believe we shall. It seems to please Mamma to have us around her and I think my husband agrees with me in thinking our first object this sad summer is to do what we can for her. Mamma has had no very severe loss since I was old enough to think of her and it is a surprise and great grief to me to see how terribly to heart she takes my dear sister's death. She seems twenty years older, is feeble and very, very sad. All she does beside lie on the sofa, such a rare thing formerly that the household was always alarmed to see her on it, is to work on some little things for the motherless little ones. Grace and I have been taking painting lessons again, partly for our own delight, but also greatly because it is the one only thing that seems to interest Mamma now apart from Berta and hers.

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I hope you brought home some water-color sketches. I wonder what place you liked the best.

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With ever so much love to you and Mr. Bell and my cousins.

Your loving daughter Mabel. My youngsters would send love, but they are half way up half a dozen trees! They are well and brown.